

## **A Service for 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

### **Father's day**

*As we come to worship today, we need to recognise that Father's Day is not a specifically Christian festival. In fact it is possible to mark the day without any reference to God whatsoever and in a similar way it would not be wrong if we didn't mark it as a special day at all in our worship.*

*However, bearing in mind that the scriptures reveal to us that God is our Heavenly Father, that Jesus uses the theme in his own parables to teach us, and that the scriptures do speak directly to fathers at certain points, there can be profit in using the significance of this day to guide our worship.*

Welcome and Call to worship

Sing praises to God, and to his name!

Shout joyfully to him who rides the clouds.

Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—  
this is God, whose dwelling is holy.

*Cf. Psalm 68.4-5*

Opening prayer

○ God, Father that you are,  
come and be with us today -

○ God, from you we understand fatherhood.

○ God, Our Father, you alone are good.

○ God, you are the true Father.

○ God, Father that you are, be with us now in our worship  
and praise.

**Amen.**

See what love the Father has given us,  
**that we should be called the children of God.**

You are my sons and daughters,  
this day I have begotten you.  
**See what love the Father has given us.**

As many as received him,  
to them he gave power to become the children of God.  
**See what love the Father has given us.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**See what love the Father has given us,  
that we should be called the children of God.**

A song - 'Come now is the time to worship'  
Come, now is the time to worship,  
come, now is the time to give your heart;  
come, just as you are to worship,  
come, just as you are before your God.  
Come.

One day every tongue  
will confess you are God,  
one day every knee will bow.  
Still, the greatest treasure remains  
for those who gladly choose you now.

Come, now is the time to worship,  
come, now is the time to give your heart;  
come, just as you are to worship,  
come, just as you are before your God.  
Come.

Brian Doerksen (born 1965)  
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## The Confession

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**Father,**  
**we have sinned against heaven and against you.**  
**We are not worthy to be called your children.**  
**We turn to you again.**  
**Have mercy on us,**  
**bring us back to yourself**  
**as those who once were dead**  
**but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*cf Luke 15*

May the God of love  
bring *us* back to himself,  
forgive *us our* sins,  
and assure *us* of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## The Collect

Lord, you have taught us  
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:  
send your Holy Spirit  
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,  
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,  
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.  
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## First Bible Reading

Deuteronomy 1.22-32

*Israel stubbornly refuses to trust in God's fatherly guidance and protection as they prepare to enter the promised land.*

Then all of you came to me and said, 'Let us send men ahead to spy out the land for us and bring back a report about the route we are to take and the towns we will come to.'

<sup>23</sup> The idea seemed good to me; so I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe. <sup>24</sup> They left and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshkol and explored it. <sup>25</sup> Taking with them some of the fruit of the land, they brought it down to us and reported, 'It is a good land that the Lord our God is giving us.'

<sup>26</sup> But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God. <sup>27</sup> You grumbled in

your tents and said, 'The Lord hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us. <sup>28</sup> Where can we go? Our brothers have made our hearts melt in fear. They say, "The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky. We even saw the Anakites there."'

<sup>29</sup> Then I said to you, 'Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. <sup>30</sup> The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, <sup>31</sup> and in the wilderness. There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.'

<sup>32</sup> In spite of this, you did not trust in the Lord your God, <sup>33</sup> who went ahead of you on your journey, in fire by night and in a cloud by day, to search out places for you to camp and to show you the way you should go.

Song – 'This is My Father's World'

2<sup>nd</sup> Bible Reading –

Luke 15.11-32

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.

<sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he

began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup> “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

The Sermon

**Let us declare our faith in God.**

**All We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Song – ‘Ascribe Greatness’

Ascribe greatness to our God, the rock,  
his work is perfect and all his ways are just.  
Ascribe greatness to our God, the rock,  
his work is perfect and all his ways are just.  
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,  
good and upright is he.  
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,  
good and upright is he.

Mary Kirkbride Barthow and Mary Lou King  
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## **The Intercessions and The Lord’s Prayer**

Father God, in whose love we live and move,  
we pray for a world crying out to be cherished  
and to know your love,  
Heavenly Father, source of all love  
**Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for a world torn apart by conflict and war.  
A world that lives uneasily in a climate of fear  
with so little vision for future days  
Heavenly Father, source of all hope  
**Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for a world that thinks of self rather than others.  
A world where division between nations, race, religion  
neighbor and family leads to distrust and anger.  
Heavenly Father, source of all peace  
**Hear Our Prayer**



We pray for a world that is short on happiness,  
too busy to enjoy this world you have created,  
too preoccupied with living to appreciate life.  
Heavenly Father, source of all joy

**Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for a world that tries to satisfy spiritual emptiness  
with fashionable notions and temporary solutions  
with no thought for tomorrow.

Heavenly Father, source of our Salvation

**Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for a world that needs to know  
your hope, your peace, your joy and Salvation.

A world that needs to know it is  
uniquely loved by a Heavenly Father.

**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever  
Amen**

Worthy, O worthy are You Lord,  
worthy to be thanked and praised  
and worshipped and adored;  
worthy, O worthy are You Lord,  
worthy to be thanked and praised  
and worshipped and adored.

Singing hallelujah, Lamb upon the throne,  
we worship and adore You, make Your glory known.  
Hallelujah, glory to the King:  
You're more than a conqueror,  
You're Lord of everything!

Mark S Kinzer (born 1952)  
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## Ending Prayer

In darkness and in light,  
in trouble and in joy,  
help us, heavenly Father,  
to trust your love,  
to serve your purpose,  
and to praise your name  
this and every day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**